

EXCISE

CONFIDENTIAL (NO 96)
SECURITY INFORMATION
FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH
FROM STATE ALBANY
TO POLAD, Trieste
SUBJECT: PERIPHERAL: ALBANIA - Interview with
ACTION: IBS IFI IPS L P
OTHER: ROME ATHENS US POLAD, TRIESTE
RECEIVED JUL 6 1953
BUREAU OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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The source of this report is an Albanian refugee who escaped from Albania in October 1950 and who arrived in Trieste from Yugoslavia on May 15, 1953. [redacted] met very few Albanians who had escaped from the country since 1951. The only person he met who was a 1953 escapee was Kole PRELA, but this man was described as like a madman who was afraid to talk to anyone. Prela was a 50 year old farmer, and he told [redacted] that he was abducted by UDBA agents and brought into Yugoslavia. The source heard of this happening on several occasions and named two Albanians, [redacted] as being engaged in the operations of kidnapping other Albanians for the Yugoslav Government. [redacted] is at present in Trieste. [redacted] before arriving in Yugoslavia, had never heard of persons being kidnapped by Yugoslav agents. When people disappeared it was thought that they were either taken away by the Secret Police or that they had escaped, but most people would not believe that kidnapping operations are being carried out. Aside from Prela, [redacted] met Nikolle BICI and Gjergj RADI who had escaped from GRYKA E LYMIT in 1951. Like most of the Albanians with whom the Peripheral Officer has spoken, the source, whenever he was confined with others of his own nationality, was with persons who had escaped at about the same time as himself. It may be that this is the Yugoslav policy.

When [redacted] escaped from Albania his entire family of thirty persons was jailed for five months after which all except his uncle and aunt were retained and sent to TEPELENE Concentration Camp. He heard from the above-mentioned Bici that they had been freed from the camp after about a year. It seems that the Government made a mistake in keeping his uncle instead of his father. This was not [redacted] fault because he was registered with the Government as a son of his uncle during the 1947 land reform in order to keep more land in the family.

Between the years 1948 and 1950 the source was a bookkeeper for a farm cooperative in [redacted]. He kept a record of the use of farm equipment and also of farm production. The machine and tractor station for the area was located in LESH, a branch of the SHKODER station. There were five or six tractors, all of Italian manufacture. These presented some difficulty, however, because of the shortage of [redacted]

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REVIEWED BY

J. S. Gable

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parts, and animals had to be used because of frequent breakdowns. The tractor drivers were often jailed for sabotage in these cases. There were four threshing machines at Lesh and two supplementary ones were provided by the Shkoder station at threshing time.

The total area served by the station was 4000 dylym. About 2000 to 2500 dylym were devoted to the production of corn which was stated to be about 8 to 10 quintals of shelled corn per dylym. This seems entirely unreasonable to the interviewer, but the source insisted that the figure was correct. About 1000 dylym were devoted to production of a Russian type of wheat which was imported to Albania. The source could not provide production figures for the wheat crop but said that it was unsuitable for the area because it was too tall and was subject to wind damage. About 200 to 300 dylym were used for the growing of sunflowers and the production was stated to be 3 to 4 quintals of seeds and seedpods per dylym. 100 dylym were used for an experimental growing of peanuts which produced only 25 kilograms of unshelled peanuts per dylym.

The Department is requested to forward processed copies of this despatch to Rome and Athens, and two copies to U.S. Polad, Trieste.

A. John Cope, Jr.
Acting U.S. Political Adviser

cc: Belgrade

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